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ABSTRACT

The New York State Technology Network Ties (TNT) systems is a statewide telecommunications network which consists of computers, telephone lines, and telecommunications hardware and software. This network links school districts, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), libraries, other educational institutions, and the State Education Department together for communications, resource sharing, and enhanced access to information and services. This brochure describes TNT's network services and technology programs developed by the State Education Department and available to schools through BOCES. Designed to support the teaching/learning environment and improve school district management, these services and programs include electronic communications, access to information databases, use of computer-based management and instructional services, and gateways to national and international networks. Specific programs and services described include electronic mail, electronic conferencing, a student information system, a management system for special education, a financial management system, statewide data collection, distributed data processing, a placement and career planning service, a teacher recruitment clearinghouse, a clearinghouse for youth-at-risk, electronic dissemination of documents, and a long-range plan for elementary and secondary education that includes major recommendations and activities to help New York State school districts incorporate technology in the classroom and improve school management. Sources for more in-depth information on these services are listed. (Contains 10 figures.) (BBM)

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Network Services and Technology Programs for New York State's Educational System

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Albany, New York

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TECHNOLOGY NETWORK TIES

Network Services and Technology Programs for New York State's Educational System

The University of the State of New York
The State Education Department
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Planning
Testing and Technological Services
Albany, New York

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INTRODUCTION

The New York State Technology Network Ties (TNT) system is a statewide telecommunications network which consists of computers, telephone lines, and telecommunications hardware and software. This network links school districts, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), libraries, other educational institutions, and the State Education Department together for communications, resource sharing, and enhanced access to information and services.

This brochure describes TNT's network services and technology programs developed by the State Education Department and available to schools through BOCES. These services and programs support the teaching learning environment and improve school district management. For more in-depth information on these services, a listing of Regional Information Centers and an Information Services Card are provided.

THE TNT NETWORK

The TNT network was developed during the past five years by building upon the upgraded computer resources of New York State's BOCES Regional Information Centers. Nine BOCES Regional Information Centers, the New York City Central Board of Education, the City School Districts of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers, and the State Education Department are connected to create the backbone of the TNT network. Over 400 of New York State's school districts, 650 buildings and all 41 BOCES have access to the network because of their existing computer connections to the Regional Information Centers.

The statewide backbone of the TNT network is illustrated in Figure 1. Figures 1a and 1b illustrate a regional network of BOCES connected to TNT through a Regional Information Center and a network of school districts linked to TNT through their BOCES.

The benefits of connecting to TNT are the available resources and services that can be easily accessed through computers by students and educators throughout the State. These services include

- electronic communications
- access to information databases
- use of computer-based management and instructional services
- gateways to national and international networks

Figure 1. Backbone of TNT Network

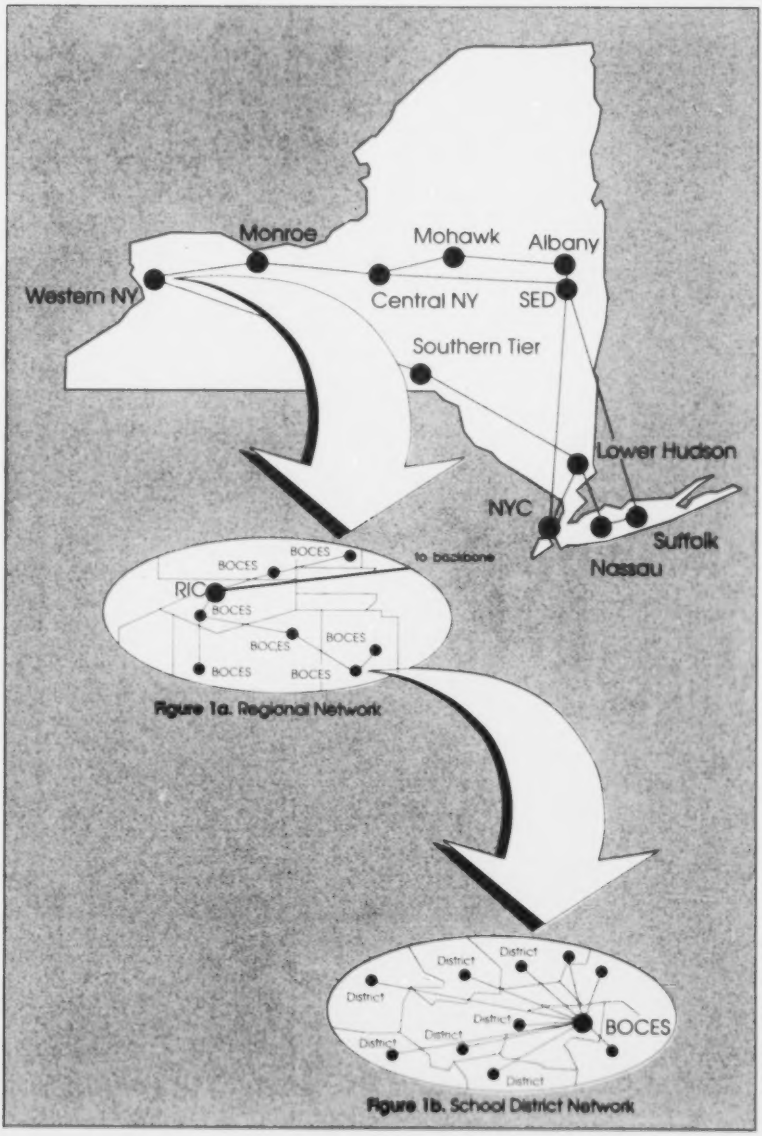

Figure 1a. Regional Network

Figure 1b. School District Network

TNT COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Electronic Mail

All persons connected to TNT have access to electronic mail and document distribution through the Professional Office System (PROFS). PROFS is currently available to all BOCES, 400 school districts, and State Education Department offices. There are over 5,000 PROFS accounts throughout the State. Electronic mail via PROFS on TNT provides educators with a reliable means of communication not dependent on time or personal availability (see Figure 2).

Circle 1 on Information Services Card

VIEW THE NOTE E01
From: AARDELL --SED Date and time 10/18/90 13:39:24
To: KMCMAHON--ALBANYDG
*** Reply to note of 10-18-90 11:25
From: AARDELL
Subject: Technology Training Meeting
Our meeting on Tuesday is to look over the teacher surveys handed out during the training. I checked with Kim and she is expecting us at the elementary school at 2 p.m. She will contact Mary Jones to remind her. We had also scheduled a meeting on 10/26 for the next module of training, but that has been cancelled until the classroom networks are set up for student and teacher use. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, Oct. 23rd!
cc: JJONES --SED
END OF NOTE
PF1 Alternate PFs PF2 File NOTE PF3 Keep PF4 Erase PF5 Forward Note
PF6 Reply PF7 Resend PF8 Print PF9 Help PF10 Next PF11 Previous PF12 Return
SNA 0F AXVM ROW 23 COL 30

Figure 2. PROFS Message

Electronic Conferencing

Educators can create electronic conferences through the TNT network to exchange views on topics or develop documents electronically (see Figure 3). This reduces time and costs associated with travel. TNT currently offers over 40 active electronic conferences within New York State.

Circle 2 on Information Services Card

BRICC/TALK #14, from PJONES on 11 Apr 1990 at 16:59:18
Title: video disks
I'm not sure I understand all of the implications of the media center approach to resources. We have been encouraging department chairpersons to become involved in the selection and purchasing of technology of all kinds. We feel that they are truly the curriculum experts. Once they see the value of a particular technology and put enough priority on that technology to commit money from their department's budget on it, then there is a much better chance for the technology to be fully utilized.
More? (Press <enter> or "q")
VM READ SED
SNA 09 AXVM
ROW 23 COL 01

Figure 3. Model Schools Conference Message

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TNT MANAGEMENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Student Information System (SIS)

The Student Information System is scheduled for release over TNT by the end of the 1990-91 school year. SIS is designed to help school districts efficiently manage their programs and report student data to the State Education Department. SIS includes student biographical information, attendance, academic progress, course/scheduling, program participation, instructional management, and health/medical information. SIS will enable a school district to

- register a student
- enroll a student in a program of study
- collect demographic data on students, parents, and associated adults
- maintain daily student attendance
- record student grades and generate reports
- place and record the educational progress of children with handicapping conditions
- provide required State student data

Figure 4 is the main menu for SIS.

Figure 4. Student Information System Main Menu

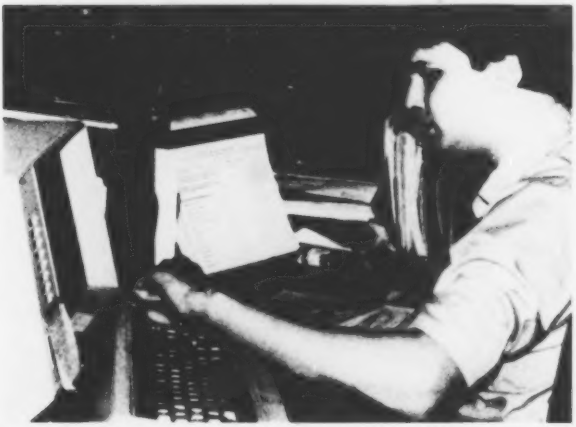
All New York State school districts will be required by July, 1993 to report all their required data, including selected individual student data, electronically to the State Education Department through their appropriate Regional Information Center. SIS includes all of the required student data elements. School districts using SIS will meet their reporting obligations cost effectively as a result of their daily data processing transactions through Regional Centers.

Circle 3 on Information Services Card.

Part 200 Management System for Special Education

The Part 200 Management System for Special Education is an application developed to administer Committee on Special Education (CSE), Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE), and special education operations at the local level. The program is available in stand-alone micro/mini computer configurations or as an integrated component of the mainframe computer-based Student Information System. The Part 200 Management System maintains biographical, family, and school information. Additionally, the system tracks all CSE/CPSE events; schedules meetings; generates notices and correspondence; maintains summary and detailed student evaluation information; records CSE/CPSE decisions; generates Phase comprehensive IEPs including annual goals and instructional objectives; manages extensive provider and class section placement information; and generates numerous ad hoc, local, and state reports. The Part 200 Management System is supported statewide by an extensive network of RIC/RCC and Special Education Training and Resource Center (SETRC) personnel and includes complete user documentation.

Circle 4 on Information Services Card



Financial Applications for Management in Education (FAME)

All the major components of the Financial Applications for Management in Education (FAME) system are scheduled for release over TNT by the end of the 1990-91 school year. The primary features of FAME are

- maintenance of General Ledger and Revenues accounts consistent with State guidelines
- flexible reporting for Personnel, Employee Attendance, and Payroll needs
- electronic creation of State reports
- capability for tracking Federal/State payrolls across reporting years
- integration of General Ledger with Accounts Payable and Purchasing

FAME's major applications consist of General Ledger, Revenue Accounting, Employee Attendance, Personnel, Purchasing, Encumbrance Accounting, Accounts Payable, Payroll, and Bidding. Figure 5 is the General Ledger menu.

Figure 5. FAME General Ledger Menu.

FAME includes all the data elements needed by school districts to meet their reporting obligations to the State. School districts using FAME will meet these requirements efficiently as a result of their normal data processing transactions.

Circle 5 on Information Services Card

Statewide Data Collection

TNT can significantly reduce the amount of paperwork for school districts through electronic reporting of information required by the State Education Department. The ST-3, SA-100, and SA-129 reports have been prepared electronically and transmitted over TNT to the State. This will prove invaluable as the State Education Department moves toward complete electronic reporting by July 1, 1993.

Circle 6 on Information Services Card

Distributed Data Processing (DDP)

Computer systems located within districts, and linked to TNT through BOCES, are eligible for aid under shared services law when these applications adhere to regional standards approved by the Commissioner of Education. There are currently over 100 distributed data processing sites in New York State.

Circle 7 on Information Services Card

TNT INFORMATION SERVICES FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

Job Link

A job placement and career planning service, entitled Job Link, has been made available by electronically connecting the State Department of Labor's mainframe computer to the TNT network. Guidance counselors throughout New York now use the TNT network to call up current Department of Labor job listings by region and classification. This provides students with the job requirements in the present market. The job

listings are updated daily. Figure 6 shows a specific job order which has been located by a user. Job Link is expected to be available to all BOCES counselors by the spring of 1991. School districts will also begin using Job Link by spring of 1991.

Circle 8 on Information Services Card

Entry => __ <=
JOB 3 OF 7
Page Back = <BLUE> B Start = <GREEN> S
This is a job order. Read the information on it. If you would like to go for an interview write down the Job Number and bring it to one of the staff. Press the <RED> ENTER key to page forward.
Job Number: NY0401290
Job Title: REHAB AIDE
City: N TROY, NY 12182
Salary: 6.00 PER HOUR
Education Required: 12 YEARS
Experience Required: _____
Hours Worked Per Week: 20
Duration of Job: PART TIME, PERMANENT
Shift: FIRST
Job Summary: REHABILITATION AIDE TO ASSIST IN CARE OF HEAD INJURED PATIENTS/HOURS WILL VARY GREATLY/SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL AND OVERTIME WHEN APPROPRIATE/SALARY WILL VARY DEPENDING ON EXPERIE NCE/EMPLOYER WILL TRAIN/COULD GO TO 40 HOURS DEP ON CLIENT/NO BENEFITS/CLIENT CALL FOR APPOINTMENT.
SNA 06 DBDCTOR1
ROW 01 COL 11

Figure 6. Job Order from Job Link System

Teacher Career Recruitment Clearinghouse

The Teacher Career Recruitment Clearinghouse is a database system which collects and distributes information about teacher candidates and job vacancies over the TNT network. A candidate file allows teachers to indicate their interest and availability in locating a position by entering detailed information and filing a resume. Figure 7 is an example of information entered by a teacher. Over 750 resumes are currently filed. District administrators can query the candidate file to

locate potential employees. A vacancy file allows districts to post available positions, which can be searched by teachers who are seeking employment. The Teacher Career Recruitment Clearinghouse will be piloted across the State in the spring of 1991.

Circle 9 on Information Services Card.

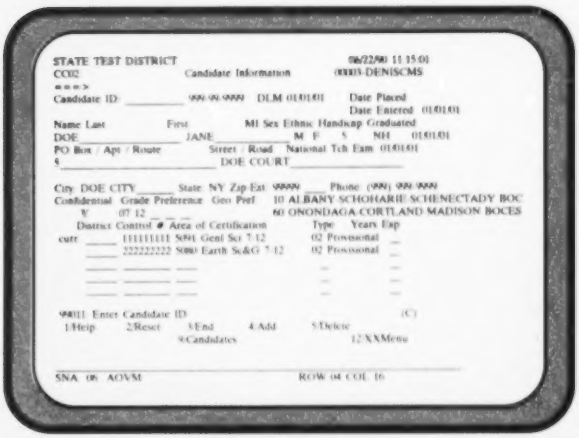

STATE TEST DISTRICT
06/22/90 11:15:01
CC02 Candidate Information (0000)-DENISCMS
Candidate ID: _____ 999-99-9999 DLM 010101 Date Placed
Date Entered 010101
Name Last First MI Sex Ethnic Handicap Graduated
DOE JANE M F S NH 010101
PO Box / Apt / Route Street / Road National Tch Exm 010101
S DOE COURT
City DOE CITY State NY Zip Ext 99999 Phone (999) 999-9999
Confidential Grade Preference Geo Pref 10 ALBANY SCHOHARIE SCHENECTADY BOC
Y 07 12 60 ONONDAGA CORTLAND MADISON BOCES
District Control # Area of Certification Type Years Exp
cutr 111111111 5091 Genl Sci 7-12 02 Provisional
222222222 5080 Earth Sc&G 7-12 02 Provisional
9(0)1 Enter Candidate ID (C)
1:Help 2:Reset 3:End 4:Add 5:Delete
9:Candidates 12:XXMenu
SNA 06 AOVM ROW 04 COL 16

Figure 7. Candidate Information

Youth-at-Risk Clearinghouse (YAR)

The Youth-at-Risk Clearinghouse provides electronic mail, computer conferencing, and two computer databases for the 110 New York State Youth-at-Risk Program coordinators. The Resources Database holds approximately 6000 records, including information on academic remediation, parenting education, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, and early intervention education. The program database will include information on in-State and out-of-State Youth-at-Risk programs. Computer conferencing topics include information sharing, a forum for national, State and local funding alerts, and management of the coordinators' projects.

Figure 8 is a message from the YAR computer conference.

Circle 10 on Information Services Card.

YAR/FUNDING #2, from BPIWNICA on 2 Jan 1990 at 09:32:53
There is/are comment(s) on this message
Title: Federal Educ Programs
You could receive a copy of the 1989 Guide To Department of Education Programs by contacting the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 at (202) 999-9999. I spoke with Jane Doe at the U.S. Dept. of Ed (202) 999-9999 and she said the 1990 Guide is anticipated to be ready for the public at the end of this month. This Guide provides you with the necessary information to apply for each Federal education program. Listed are contacts and phone numbers, program descriptions and info on who may apply. The 197 programs are listed categorically. Compensatory Education, School Improvement, Migrant Education, Drug Prevention, and Reform of Schools are a few.
No more unread messages in this topic
Press <Enter> to join next active conference/topic.
Read:
VM READ SED

Figure 8. YAR Conference Message

Electronic Dissemination of Documents

The State Education Department and school districts are experimenting with electronic dissemination of documents over the TNT network. This service will include

- Dissemination of state syllabi and other documents (such as Commissioner's guidelines and regulations) to all school districts immediately after State approval
- A search capability to enable districts to locate and retrieve specific portions of a document
- Capability to customize documents for district needs
- Document updates immediately disseminated

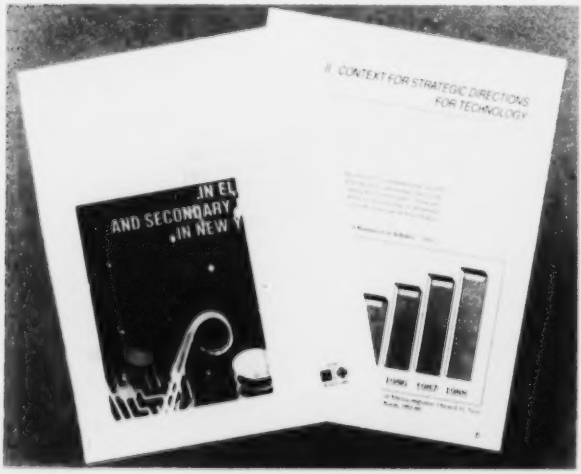
Circle 11 on Information Services Card.

LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR TECHNOLOGY IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN NEW YORK STATE

TNT represents a comprehensive platform for integrating technology within New York State schools during the next five years. The Board of Regents *Long-Range Plan for Technology in Elementary and Secondary Education in New York State* (June 1990) is the strategic context for guiding this activity. The "Vision of the Future" in the *Long-Range Plan* describes the teaching-learning environment in 1995, if technology is effectively implemented across several dimensions of the educational system. Figures 9 and 10 depict the technology to be implemented for the student and teacher dimensions by this vision.

The *Long-Range Plan* includes major recommendations and activities to help New York State school districts incorporate technology within the classroom and improve the management of the school.

Circle 12 on Information Services Card.



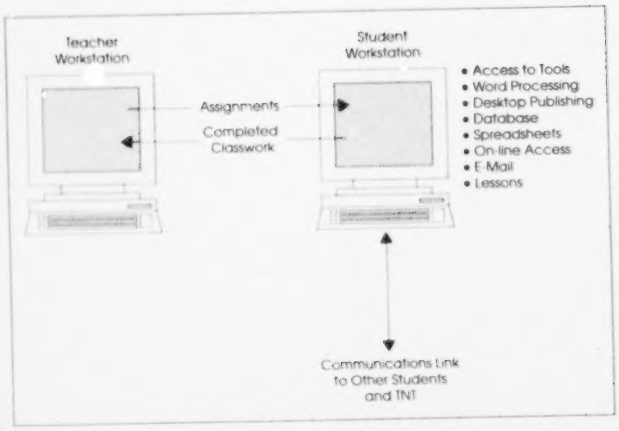


Figure 9. Student Dimension

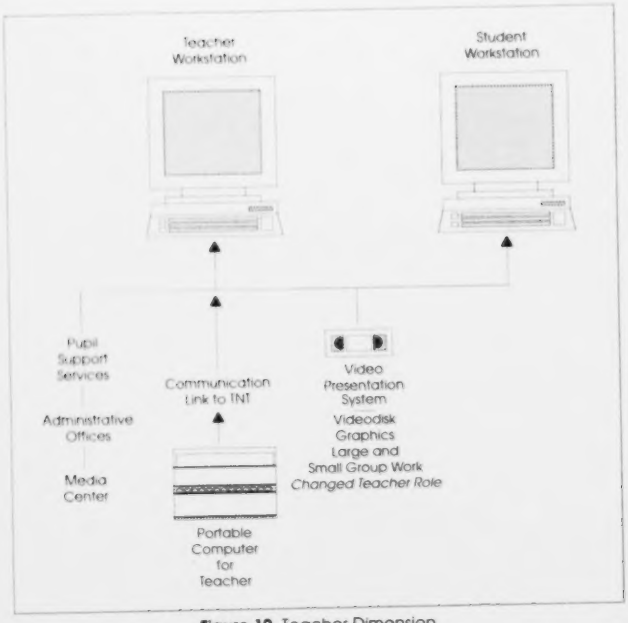


Figure 10. Teacher Dimension

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TNT INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

Model Schools Program

The Model Schools Program has been developed under TNT to help teachers learn about and apply technology in the classroom for all curricular areas. This service provides planning, curriculum and staff development, and evaluation. A new shared service is available through many BOCES to support Model Schools activities which include

- Training teachers in "tool software" (e.g., word processing, spreadsheet, database, graphics) for classroom applications
- Developing curriculum specific lessons (K-12) and activities that have been enhanced by the application of technology
- Exploring demonstrating advanced applications for curriculum-specific use
- Using TNT's computer conferencing, electronic mail and on-line database services for teacher/student curriculum forums

The Model Schools Program is currently being replicated in the Madison-Oneida, Suffolk III, Onondaga, Dutchess, Nassau, and Albany BOCES regions.

Circle 13 on Information Services Card

Piloting the "Vision of the Future" Through Industry Partnerships

IBM, Inc., Apple Computer, Inc., and NYNEX have committed hardware, software, network technology, training, and technical assistance to implement the *Long-Range Plan's* "Vision of the Future" in selected New York State schools.

IBM

- Twelve elementary schools were selected to participate in a SED/IBM Joint Study for the next five years. Each school received student workstations, network technology, teacher workstations, a presentation system, software, and training for integration in their classrooms. In addition, twelve postsecondary schools were chosen for the project and received computer lab equipment for training prospective elementary teachers.

Circle 14 on Information Services Card

Photo by Nancy Miller

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APPLE

- Five school districts were initially selected to receive student workstations, network technology, teacher workstations, a presentation system, software, and training to pilot the shared SED/Apple vision of a learning society. In addition, school districts will be able to submit proposals to the State Education Department to participate in the project.

Circle 15 on Information Services Card

NYNEX

- Under a NYNEX partnership, 20 teachers at each of 60 statewide sites will be selected by Regional Information Centers and Big Five City School Districts to be trained on tool software applications within the context of the *Long-Range Plan for Technology*.

Circle 16 on Information Services Card

PLANNING FOR TECHNOLOGY

Technology Planning for Improving Schools (TPIS)

A *TPIS* guidebook has been published to help school districts plan an instructional technology support system for school improvement. BOCES staff involved in school improvement or technology planning were trained on the *TPIS* model and procedures. School districts should contact their appropriate Regional Information Center for this planning service.

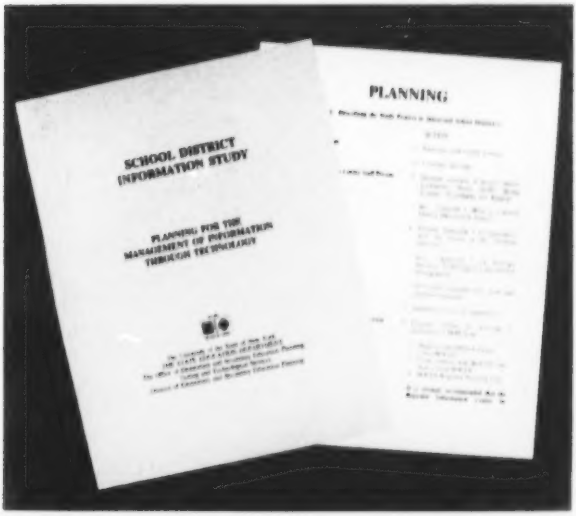
Circle 17 on Information Services Card

School District Information Study (SDIS)

SDIS is a process to help school district personnel develop a three-year plan for information management and related technology applications. A completed study provides information from key sectors of the school district, a systematic needs analysis, and an implementation plan citing specific equipment, software, and train-

ing requirements. An *SDIS* guidebook containing procedures has been published. School districts should contact their appropriate Regional Information Center.

Circle 18 on Information Services Card



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

INFONET An electronic connection is being tested between the TNT network and IBM's worldwide *Information Network*. This connection will dramatically increase the number of services available to users of the TNT network. School districts and BOCES will access these new services through the same TNT computer workstations used for other services.

Services could include

- Electronic mail to over 80 countries and many U.S. public/private agencies
- Curriculum projects cooperatively developed by New York State students and teachers and their counterparts in other states and countries.
- Access to over 30 information services (i.e., Dow-Jones, LEXIS, NEXUS, BRS, and others)

Circle 19 on Information Services Card

CONNECT-PAC

CONNECT-PAC is a software product for managing the number of software licenses in active use by school districts over TNT. By installing CONNECT-PAC on each of the Regional Information Center mainframe computers, school districts would participate in cooperative licensing at greater cost benefits. Separate licenses would not have to be purchased for each computer in the district.

Circle 20 on Information Services Card

Gateway to Other Networks

Electronic connection between TNT and other networks, including Apple-Link, GTE Telenet, and BITNET are being explored. These links would permit TNT users to access services from their workstations.

Circle 21 on Information Services Card

TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS QUARTERLY

The *Technology Applications Quarterly (TAQ)*, published by the State Education Department's Bureau of Technology Applications, informs New York State educators of local, regional, and State technology

programs. TAQ is circulated to over 16,000 educators.

Circle 22 on Information Services Card.

Quarterly

Using Technology to Pursue Excellence in Schools: Status of Long-Range Plan and Support Activities

Library Services

TNT links to school library systems and regional libraries are in place within two Regional Information Center Service areas. Other regions are cooperatively planning for network integration of libraries and the TNT school/BOCES network. Library services on the network are expected to include electronic searching, access to bibliographic databases, and the statewide Film/Video Database which is being completed.

Circle 23 on Informatin Services Card.

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TNT REGIONAL SERVICES

Many services have been developed as a result of local needs and regional planning. These services vary from region to region and may become more widely available outside of a region depending upon the nature of the service. These services may include

- distance learning projects
- electronic connections to regional/public libraries
- access to local databases of information

CONNECTING TO TNT

To obtain more information on the TNT network services and technology programs described in this brochure, you should contact your appropriate BOCES Regional Information Center, the State Education Department, or complete and return the Information Services Card.

REGIONAL INFORMATION CENTERS (RIC) AND ASSOCIATED REGIONAL COMPUTER CENTERS (RCC)

ALBANY RIC
Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady BOCES
David Courtright
(518) 456-9245

SOUTHERN TIER RIC
Broome-Delaware-Tioga BOCES
Ronald Kovac
(607) 729-9301

SCHUYLER-CHEMUNG RCC
Schuyler-Chemung-Tioga BOCES
Paul Crandall
(607) 796-2177

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Erie #1 BOCES
Richard Doster
(716) 686-2000

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Monroe #1 BOCES
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Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES
George Sweet
(716) 526-6487

CENTRAL NEW YORK RIC
Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES
Paul Mikus
(315) 433-8301

MOHAWK RIC
Madison-Oneida BOCES
Robert Capoccia
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SUFFOLK RIC
Suffolk #2 BOCES
Gregory Munson
(516) 289-2200

NASSAU RIC
Nassau BOCES
Robert Neumann
(516) 334-7820

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Southern Westchester #2 BOCES
Ray Sherrier
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Title/Responsibility _____

School/Institution _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone ( ) _____

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